

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUJUMB 00203 021004Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 USIA-06

BIB-01 /024 W

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P 020935Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5987

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, BY

SUBJECT: RADIO CORDAC

REF: STATE 45230

1. RADIO CORDAC STILL CONTINUES TO BROADCAST FOR THE MOMENT, BUT THERE HAS APPARENTLY BEEN A REVERSAL IN GRB POLICY SINCE EARLIER ASSURANCES TO RADIO CORDAC REPORTED IN JANUARY.

2. RADIO CORDAC HEAD, CHARLES KIRKPATRICK, PAID CALL ON EMBASSY FEBRUARY 28 TO REPORT THAT THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION HAD CALLED IN CORDAC'S LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE (A BURUNDIAN) AND INFORMED HIM THAT A NEW LAW HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THE CABINET TO RECOGNIZE ONLY ONE RADIO STATION IN BURUNDI, THE GOVERNMENT'S OWN "VOICE OF THE REVOLUTION", CORDAC HAS WRITTEN TO THE MINISTER TO PROTEST THE NEW RULING IN VIEW OF ITS FOURTEEN YEARS OF OPERATION AND OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH IT FEELS HAS MADE TO ENLIGHTENMENT IN BURUNDI, BUT IT HAS NO EXPECTATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL CHANGE ITS MIND. AT MOST, THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION HINTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT MAKE PROPOSALS TO CORDAC FOR SHARING THE STATION'S BROADCAST TIME, AND KIRKPATRICK BELIEVES THAT RADIO CORDAC COULD LIVE WITH A SHARED ARRANGEMENT AS LONG AS IT WERE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE SOME RELIGIOUS PROGRAMS. (THE REGIME'S CANCELLATION

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OF THE USUAL SUNDAY MORNING CATHOLIC MASS BROADCAST ON FEBRUARY 27 ON THE GOVERNMENT RADIO STATION HAS RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF A GOVERNMENT INTENTION TO BAN ALL RELIGIOUS RADIO BROADCASTS UNDER NEW REGULATIONS.)

3. ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY UNHAPPY ABOUT THIS TURN OF EVENTS, MR. KIRKPATRICK WAS HOPEFUL THAT A SHARING SOLUTION WOULD BE

POSSIBLE. HE DID NOT REQUEST THE EMBASSY'S INTERVENTION.
HE SAID HE SIMPLY WANTED FOR THE TIME BEING TO INFORM US OF
HIS PROBLEM.

4. WHILE I MIGHT TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY INFORMALLY AT SOME
SUITABLE OCCASION IN THE NEXT DAYS TO SAY TO SENIOR BURUNDIAN
OFFICIALS THAT, IN MY OPINION, IT WOULD BE A DISERVICE TO THE
CITIZENRY FOR THE GRB TO CLOSE A STATION WHICH HAS BEEN WORKING
TO PROVIDE MORE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING TO BURUNDIANS
(CORDAC HAD HOPED TO AUGMENT ITS CURRENT TRANSMISSIONS WITH
FARMER EDUCATION BROADCASTS SOON), I ASSUME THAT THERE WOULD
NOT BE ANY BASIS FOR AN OFFICIAL PROTEST IN CASE THE GRB
DID DECIDE TO CARRY OUT MOVES TO CLOSE DOWN THIS FOREIGN OWNED
AND OPERATED STATION. THE FOREGOING IS BASED ON OUR UNDER-
STANDING THAT U.S. LAW ITSELF DOES NOT PERMIT FOREIGN
OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION OF RADIO AND TV FACILITIES. NATURALLY,
THE EMBASSY WOULD SPEAK UP IF THERE WERE ANY QUESTION OF
UNCOMPENSATED CONFISCATION OF AMERICAN-OWNED PROPERTY OR
EQUIPMENT IN RADIO CORDAC.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RADIO BROADCASTING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BUJUMB00203
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Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770071-0737
Format: TEL
From: BUJUMBURA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197703102/aaaadmfg.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RADIO CORDAC
TAGS: CASC, BY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f04f88ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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